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Brent M. Peebles 38,576
Name of Attorney Registration No.
BMP
Signature of Attorney

Case 7670

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

D.N. Rubingh et al.

Serial No. 09/618,235

Filed July 18, 2000

For PROTEASE CONJUGATES HAVING

STERICALLY PROTECTED EPITOPE REGIONS:



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Confirmation No. 8554

Group Art Unit 1652

Examiner W.W. Moore

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RESPONSE TO NONFINAL REJECTION

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the January 18, 2002 Office Action in the above-entitled application, please amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the following remarks. Attached hereto is a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time, and the fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(a), providing for a timely response up to and including June 18, 2002.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 19 as follows:

1. A protease conjugate comprising a protease moiety and one or more addition moieties wherein the protease moiety comprises a first epitope region, a second epitope region, and a third epitope region, wherein each addition moiety is covalently attached to an epitope protection position of the protease moiety, wherein:
 - (a) the epitope protection positions for the first epitope region are selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 17, 36, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 67, 86, 87, 89, 206, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 215, and 216 of the amino acid sequence of subtilisin BPN' set forth in SEQ ID NO:1;